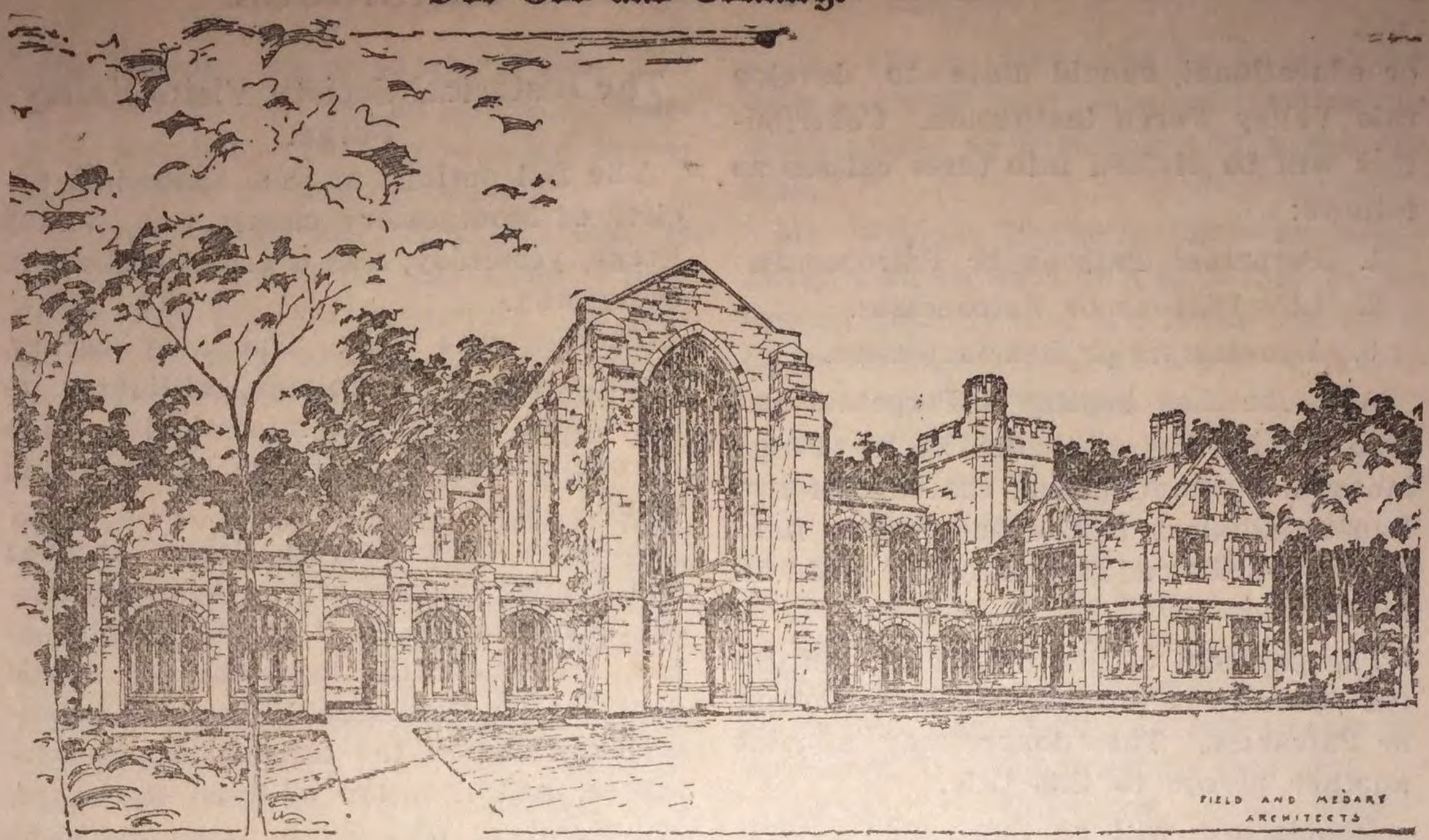
"For God and Country."



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Rectory.

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

MISS EMMA W. CRAWFORD, Editor. MRS. ROBERT WOOD, Business Manager

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Patrons and Patronesses.

The Valley Forge Museum of American History, which was formally opened on Washington's Birthday, 1909, is already a well established institution and from its opening nine months ago has steadily grown in value and historic importance. Its collections include some of the rarest treasures, and all the exhibits are full of historic interest.

To make the Museum even more worthy of Valley Forge and the American people it has been decided to ask for annual subscriptions and endowment. It is hoped in this way an adequate fund may be secured for the purchase of relics and the devolopment of what is even now an educational exhibit of rare merit. Teachers of American history are making pilgrimages to Valley Forge with their pupils, and are making their instructions more real and vital by the objects now exhibited. Every article added increases this educational value and the result is beyond calculation. Every American should count it a privilege to further this important work, and all societies whose aims are patriotic, historic,

or educational, should unite to develop this Valley Forge institution. Contributors will be divided into three calsses as follows:

1. Perpetual Patrons or Patronesses.
2. Life Patrons or Patronesses.
3. Benefactors or Benefactresses.

Any one may become a Perpetual Patron or Patroness of the Valley Forge Museum by contributing the sum of two hundred dollars to the endowment fund of the Museum. This may be made in memoriam.

The payment of fifty dollars will entitle the donor to be enrolled as a Life Patron or Patroness. The donor may appoint another person to this title.

Benefactors will be those who contribute one dollar or more annually to the Museum fund.

Notice of the expiration of the term of all Benefactors will be given, but no Benefactor will be under any obligation to be a Benefactor for the following year. It is of course hoped that the work will so commend itself that Benefactors will renew their subscriptions from year to year.

The names of those so contributing to the maintenance and extension of the Valley Forge Museum of American History will be published in the Washington Chapel Chronicle, and a record preserved in the archives.

Miss Sarah R. Chew, of Woodbury, N. J., who had the honor of giving the New Jersey Bay, the first Bay in the "Cloister of the Colonies" and the first State monument at Valley Forge, has the honor of being the first Perpetual Patroness of the Valley Forge Museum of American History.

Miss Chew's patriotism and generosity in thus taking the initiative in the endowment of the Valley Forge Museum should be an inspiration to many, and the list of Patrons and Patronesses should be an ever growing one.

The Historical Society Visits Valley Forge.

The fall outing of the Historical Society of Montgomery county, at Valley Forge, yesterday, was a grand success in every way.

The day was ideal. The air bracing, the roads good, the foliage, brilliant scarlet, russet and green, intermingled made it one changing, almost kaleidescopic scene.

At nine o'clock several large coaches and smaller means of conveyance ranged themselves in front of the Herald office, and under the leadership of President Joseph Fornance, William H. Weber, chairman of the transportation committee, and librarian William Summers, the members who chose to go by team started on the drive by way of the Ridge pike to Jeffersonville and Betzwood. At both of these points passengers were taken on, at the latter place those who joined the party had gone that far by train. When the meeting place, Washington Memorial Chapel, was reached, quite a number of others were found there who had traveled in their automobiles and private carriages.

Upon alighting the visitors were invited to enter the chapel and all were cordially greeted by Rev. W. Herbert Burk, the founder. The utmost sociability prevailed. In inspecting the curios in the museum cases, many expressions of admiration were heard as the inscriptions were read on the many priceless treasures. Rev. Mr. Burk, who has been the author of the whole work, came in for many words of praise.

At eleven o'clock a business meeting was held, President Joseph Fornance in the chair, and Recording Secretary Miss Frances M. Fox and Corresponding Secretary Mrs. A. Conard Jones, in their places. Mr. Fornance thanked Mr. William H. Wetherill, of Audubon and Philadelphia, whose guests the society were, and also praised the Ladies' Guild of the chapel, and Mr. Burk. Then Mr.

Burk happily welcomed the society and the guests as well as the Audubon Society of Audubon, who were also Mr. Wetherill's guests on this occasion.

In his remarks Mr. Burk said that he did not intend to tell all about Valley Forge, for that was impossible. He said he was learning something new almost daily and there would be new stories to tell for years to come. He reverted to a day, about fifteen years ago, when he took his choir boys to the historic field, through the underbush, and found here and there some relic of the patriots, in the earthworks, the partially dismantled forts, the hut holes and the decaying timbers, and the realization of the possibilities of a lasting monument on this field, not of battle, but of training; of a spot made famous by the patriots who here suffered and with little wavering, trained to fight the strong fight that ultimately made this great country—then the thirteen colonies—free, and the most glorious on the face of the earth.

He told much that was very interesting; how he secured the marquee, the large tent, occupied by Washington a portion of the time at Valley Forge during the winter and spring of 1777-78. The army was not, as many suppose, made up of veterans, but contained many youthful soldiers of ages ranging from 16 up. Some of the officers were but 19 or 20 years of age and the Marquis Lafayette, but 19 at the time and he and Baron Von Steuben were indefatigable in the drilling of these almost raw troops.

The rector recited the hardship and sufferings for want of food and clothing during the memorable winter of 1777 and told stories of wonderful heroism and sacrifice. He showed some of the original placards containing tempting offers to those who enlisted in the British service and which were circulated through the lines to tempt desertion, and cited this and sickness and want of provisions and clothing as the causes of a loss of 3000 of the 11,000 men during the stay at Valley Forge. His remarks were closed with a grand and eloquent tribute to Washington, as a soldier and a churchman.

Mr. William Wetherill made an interesting address, in which he stated he regretted that he and the fellow members of the committee, Congressman Irving P. Wanger and Dr. William H. Reed, had not been able to induce the National Government to erect a bridge across Fatland Ford. When that is an accomplished fact he will have the society hold more of its meetings at the home of Audubon, of which he is now the possessor.

The following resolution was introduced by Rev. Mr. Burk and had numerous seconders and unanimously carried:

Whereas a large part of the Valley Forge Park lies within Montgomery county, and we are this day meeting on this historic ground and are enjoying the results of the generous patriotism of the representatives of the state, therefore

Be it Resolved, That the Historical Society of Montgomery county place upon record its appreciation of the splendid work which has been done through the Valley Forge Park Commission for the preservation of this historic site and of the excellent manner in which the beautiful grounds are maintained.

Dr. George E. Shattuck, J. Hartman Naylor, John J. Hughes, of Norristown, Mrs. Joseph C. Jones, of Conshohocken, and Mrs. George Corson, of Plymouth Meeting, are among those elected to membership. An order on Major General Washington to pay for the horse feed—for a peck of corn and parcels of hay—and for the meals served to troopers overnight by John Lukens, presented by Comly Lukens, of Riverside, California, whose great grandfather received it for entertaining two troopers, through the hands of Mr. Lukens' cousin, J. P. Hale Jenkins, was presented by Mr. Jenkins.

Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the Society, read a very interesting paper on "The Lonely Grave at Woodstown, N. J.,"

taking the listeners back to the days when the yellow fever epidemic raged in Philadelphia. (It appears in another place in the Chronicle). It was attentively listened to.

Votes of thanks were extended to all who assisted in the pleasures of the society and the business session closed.

A bounteous luncheon was served by the Ladies' Guild of the Mission in the Sunday School room, after which Mr. Burk delivered a very interesting address on the wonderful relics contained in the Museum of American History, telling the story over to four or five different detachments of interested listeners who gained a splendid idea of what the relics were and what they stood for.

The Rev. Mr. Burk took the members of the society through the museum and chapel and explained what had been done and what was to be accomplished. In the museum Washington's marquee was of course the greatest object of interest as it is the greatest relic of Washington outside of Mount Vernon. Next to it in interest is the cheque which the United States paid to Lafayette for his services in the War of the Revolution. Exhibited with it are two letters of Lafayette, and in the same case are a passport signed by Louis XVI, King of France, and the fragment of a letter signed by King George III, of England, our friend and our foe. The collection of Washington relics is not large, but is representative, and includes two letters written at Valley Forge. The "Mary Regina Brice Collection" of documents contains many letters and papers of historic importance.

The relics are classified, being arranged in cases to represent the Aboriginal period, the Colonial period, the War of the Revolution, the period of Construction, the Civil War. The named collections in addition to the "Mary Regina Brice Collection" are the "Rev. Jesse Y. Burk" and the "William S. Green and William L. Fox" collections of Indian relics, and the "Lilla S. Pechin Collection of Postage Stamps." The collection of relics from the Spanish - American War is small, but an effort will be made to increase it.

The museum is in the first room of the Patriots' Hall, which is of fire-proof construction. The "Porch of the Allies" will form the entrance to the hall, and of the five bays the German-American Alliance has promised two in memory of De Kalb and Steuben. These will probably be built in the spring. The chapel has been built in a most substantial manner. The walls of the nave are now up to the window sills, upon which are temporary windows and a frame superstructure and roof. The walls are lined with stone to this height, and on them are two bronze tablets. Ten of the "Pews of the Patriots" are in place, and all of the twenty-five are taken except two. These are the handsomest pews in America.

The visitors yesterday greatly admired the beautiful stone-font given by Mr. and Mrs. William M. Sullivan in memory of their son Ralph, and the pulpit, lectern and perclose, given by Mrs. Alan Wood, Jr., in memory of her husband. Miss Martha Hovenden's work in the plaster casts for the bronze tablets in memory of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and of the framers of the Constitution, were also highly appreciated. It was a matter of local pride that she had made the designs and that the stone work was the product of Norristown mechanics.

"The Cloister of the Colonies," which is a unique memorial, is now so far completed that its great beauty can be seen and appreciated. Five of the bays, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and Massachusetts, have been built, completing the facade. One more has been promised, and in three states an effort is being made to erect bays.

Since the project was begun by Mr. Burk six years ago over $30,000 have been expended on the work, not counting

the museum. The pledges for memorials exceed $10,000. The grounds include twenty-five acres, a large part of which was purchased for a cemetery. The whole plan is a most comprehensive one, and when it is carried out will be a credit to the whole country.

All were furnished by Rev. Burk with a "Valley Forge Guide," of which he is the author, and by it better understanding could be had of what was later seen. Some secured a report of the Valley Forge Park Commission tendered them by Colonel Samuel S. Hartranft, treasurer of the Commission.

The coaches were then again loaded and the drive taken over the beautiful smooth boulevards laid and maintained by the Valley Forge Park Commission, stopping at the principal points of interest, the first being the Star Redoubt, the next the outer line of entrenchments and then the headquarters, where some time was spent by those who had not been there before.

A complete tour of the boulevards was made, all the interesting places visited and return was made by way of King-of-Prussia, where the emblem of the soldier King, of Prussia, was observed on the sing that swings in front of that historic hostelry. The time of arrival at the starting point, the Herald office, was 5 p. m.

On the 25th of October the Rev. Mr. Burk gave two lectures on Valley Forge and the Washington Memorial Chapel in the Church House, Philadelphia. In the morning his audience was the Clerical Brotherhood of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and in the afternoon he addressed members of the Woman's Auxiliary. The lectures were illustrated. Mr. Burk lectured again on Nov. 2, before the Men's Club of St. Timothy's Church, Roxborough, on the same subject.

Mr. William W. Potts has given two old powder horns and a canteen.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK
MINISTER IN CHARGE.

ALL SAINTS RECTORY, NORRISTOWN.

THE REV. FRANCIS T. H. FINN
ASSISTANT,
PORT KENNEDY.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.

Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.

William Rumford, Sexton.

Sundays.

2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.

Second Sunday of the month, 10.30 A. M. Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.

Stewart Fund Hall

Sundays.

10.00 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 A. M. Service and Sermon.

Calendar.

NOVEMBER.

21. Sunday next before Advent.
25. Thanksgiving Day.
    10 a. m., Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.
    Offering for the Episcopal Hospital.
28. First Sunday in Advent.
30. St. Andrew's Day.
    10 a. m., Holy Communion.

DECEMBER.

1. 2.30 p. m., Guild Meeting at the residence of Mrs. Charles Wells Walker.
5. Second Sunday in Advent.
12. Third Sunday in Advent.

Why not send a dollar and the names and addresses of ten friends that they may receive the Chronicle for five months? It will be appreciated.

Honor Roll for October.

The names of those missing no session of the Sunday School through the month of October, follow:

BIBLE CLASS.

Mr. E. T. Boggs, teacher.—Miss Jane Stoddart, Miss Catharine McGlathery, Mrs. Pechin, Mrs. Warriner, Miss Mary Andrews.

CLASS NO. 2.

Girls' Class, Miss A. W. Pechin, teacher—Alva Andrews, Dorothy Murray, Eleanor Andrews, Martha Andrews.

CLASS NO. 4.

Boys' Class, Rev. F. T. H. Finn, teacher—Frank Zann, Francis Hampton, David Beynon, Ernest Stahler, John Hughes, Willie Stephens, Charles Gebhardt.

CLASS NO. 5.

Infant Class, Miss Mary S. Stephens, teacher—Margretta Gebhardt.

AUXILIARY SCHOOL, KING OF PRUSSIA.

Bible Class—Mr. Finn, teacher. Miss Mary Pugh, Miss Edna Fisher.

Girls' Class—Miss Anderson, teacher. Anna Leamy.

Girls' Class—Miss Katherine Rahn, teacher. Clara Williams, Ruth Rahn.

Boys' Class—Miss Margaret Zinser, teacher. George Malloy.

Boys' Class—Mrs. Pratt, teacher. Frank Malloy, Howard Leamy.

Primary Class—Miss Paxon, teacher. Ethel Leamy.

The Lonely Grave Near Woodstown, N. J.

By Joseph Fornance, Esq., of Norristown, Pa.

Written for the 1908 Almanac and Year Book of the First National Bank, Woodstown, N. J., and read at Valley Forge before the Montgomery County Historical Society.

In Pilesgrove Township, Salem County, N. J., along the fence of a large field, on the farm of Frank P. Keen, stands the ancient and solitary grave of Major Christian Piercy, with its substantial head and foot stones, on which his name is misspelled Pircy. It is near the road from Camden to Salem, east of the village of Eldridge's Hill, and about one and a half miles from Woodstown.

For nearly one nundred and fifteen years Christian Piercy has rested there undisturbed. The plowshare turned aside in its furrow to protect his last resting place, and in seed time and harvest, and in all the varied business of the farm, his grave has not been molested.

He was a resident of Philadelphia and had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The Pennsylvania Archives state that during July, 1777, he was encamped at Billingsport, N. J., with his company, the Fifth Philadelphia Militia, of which he was Captain. He afterwards served under General Wayne at the battle of Brandywine, and also at Paoli, where he was wounded. He was with the Continental Army in all its various marches and camps during the autumn of 1777, and spent the following winter (1777-1778) in its camp at Valley Forge.

A family tradition states that while he was at Valley Forge his wife got through the British lines and brought him provisions, riding there from Philadelphia on horseback.

Another tradition is that while at Valley Forge, being a potter, he built a kiln and made a lot of dishes for the soldiers. But the needs of the soldiers were so great that when the kiln was opened they rushed in and took all the dishes, leaving him none for his own use.

His rank in the army was captain, and the title of major appearing on his tombstone was no doubt a brevet title, conferred after the war.

He had two brothers who were also in the army, and were in the camp at Valley Forge. Both of them are mentioned in the Pennsylvania Archives. One of them was Jacob Piercy, fifer in First Company,

Philadelphia Artillery, July 1776, and corporal in Second Pennsylvania Regiment, 1777 to 1781. While he was at Valley Forge his house in Philadelphia was taken as barracks for British soldiers in General Howe's army. His wife, driven from home, fled with her young child to him at the camp at Valley Forge, where she gave birth to another daughter.

The youngest brother, Henry Piercy, was in the army during the entire war. His name frequently occurs in the Pennsylvania Archives. He first enlisted in the "Flying Camp." In February, 1777, he was promoted to be a lieutenant in the Pennsylvania Line, and was with it in all its career through the war. He was wounded in 1781 in an engagement at Chickahominy Church, Va., on the march of the army to the battle at Yorktown. He was one of the original members of the Cincinnati Society, and his certificate of membership in that society, signed by General Washington and General Knox, is still held by the family.

The home of Christian Piercy was in the Northern Liberties, of Philadelphia. The house he owned and lived in was on the west side of Front street, at the corner of Artillery Lane. He was a potter, and his pottery (or pott-house, as it was then called) was also on Front street, near his dwelling. He was an active, energetic and successful business man, and employed a number of workmen in his business. He also had a number of apprentices, who lived with him according to the custom of that time. This, with his own family, made a large household. When he died the youngest of his eight children was thirteen years old. They all were children of his first wife. By his second wife, to whom he was married eleven years, he had no children. She afterwards removed to New Jersey and survived him many years. He and his family were Lutherans, and attended St. Michael and Zion Lutheran Churches, Philadelphia.

The condition of his family in 1793 was prosperous and happy. His daughter Elizabeth had just been married to John Henry Wolf, and everything seemed to indicate an auspicious future for them all.

In the summer of 1793 the yellow fever broke out with great violence in Philadelphia. It became a fearful epidemic, and many persons died of the disease. It entered the household of Christian Piercy. His son William, then about eighteen years old, was stricken down and died on October 6th. An apprentice, Isaac English, was also taken ill in his house at the same time.

While his son and the apprentice were lying ill of the fever in his house, Major Piercy hurried to New Jersey, to find shelter and protection for the rest of his household. What led him to seek refuge there we do not know. Perhaps his memory of his military service at the near-by Billingsport Camp, sixteen years before, directed his attention to this locality. He was in the stage from Camden to Salem, and was suddenly taken violently ill with the fever. At Eldridge's Hill he was compelled to leave the stage and seek shelter for himself. But, through fear of the deadly disease, no one would harbor him, until Isaac Eldridge, for whom the present village of Eldridge's Hill is named, took him to an untenanted log house on his property, where he died almost immediately on September 27th, 1793. The body could not be taken to Philadelphia, but, with Mr. Eldridge's permission, it was buried at once on his land near that house. The house was long ago torn down. A tree, not far from the grave, is near its site. The tombstones there were soon afterwards erected by the estate of Christian Piercy. They mark a grave that for over a century has received the hospitality of strangers.

The land in question passed from Isaac Eldridge to Levi Jennings; later to the Hanes family, and recently to Frank P. Keen, who now resides on it. By all these land-owners and their tenants in all these years, the grave has been cared for.

It is to be hoped that in future years, as in the past, that care will continue, and that the last resting-place of one whose services to the country helped to establish the nation shall be preserved.

Jacob Piercy and Henry Piercy have no descendants living. Christian Piercy has descendants, but there appear to be none bearing the surname Piercy.

At the death of Christian Piercy, his household in Philadelphia was broken up. In time his children were scattered, and there is no trace of some of them. His daughter Mary was married and moved to New Orleans, but nothing more is known of her. His sons William and Henry died in boyhood. Whether his sons Jacob and John had descendants is not known. The descendants of his son George live mostly in Washington, D. C., and in Virginia. The descendants of his daughter Elizabeth Wolf live in and near Philadelphia. His youngest daughter, Catherine, was adopted by her uncle, Henry Piercy, and was taken by him to his home in Alexandria, Va. There, in 1799, she married John McKnight. Her descendants are scattered all over this country.

One of her grandchildren, and a great-grandson of Christian Piercy, is the writer of this sketch.

It has been found by experience that during the winter the meetings of the Guild are much better attended when held at the homes of the members. Consequently the Guild will adopt last winter's plan and the first meeting will be held at Mrs. Charles Wells Walker's, on Wednesday, December first, at 2.30. The question of Chirstmas decorations at the chapel will be considered and it is hoped that the meeting will be largely attended.

Visitors at the Chapel on Sunday, Nov. 7th, were surprised at the size of the congregation which numbered 82.

THE PATRIOTS' HALL.

The following have been enrolled in the "Book of the Founders":

Mrs. Lockie Ball Barnett, Batesville, Ark.	$ 1.00
Katherine Gaylord Brooks, Baltimore, Md.	1.00
Little Rock Chapter, D. A. R., Little Rock, Ark.	1.00
Leila Ewing Werbin, Little Rock, Ark.	1.00
Harriet Louise Ankeny, Des Moines, Iowa	1.00
Mrs. John W. Fryberger, Philipsburg, Pa.	1.00
	$6.00
Previously reported	$661.00
	$667.00

A supper was served in the parish house by the Martha Washington Chapter of the Chapel Guild on Saturday, November 6th. The room was attractively decorated with cornstalks tied with orange colored bows. The color scheme was further carried out in the shades on the candelabra on the tables. Many availed themselves of the opportunity of enjoying a very delicious supper. The members of the Junior Guild, made the leadership of Mrs. Nathan Hughes, deserve great credit for the evening's success.

Have all Chapel members filled out pledge cards for their envelopes?

Mrs. Ellen P. Schall has given a pewter tea set of six pieces. It is certainly over one hundred years old and perhaps older, and is a beautiful example of this old art. Mrs. Schall has included in her gift two prints over 200 years old. They are very quaint, and are of the greatest interest to our visitors.

From Miss Kent Gregory we have received a tastefully framed photogravure of General Robert E. Lee.